

Six-week adoption quest ends on happy note

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ed there was no provincial objection to the adoption.

Through all the media attention about the number of unwanted children in Romania who were being adopted out of country, the couple thought this might be the easiest and fastest way to adopt the children for themselves.

No knowing where, or how to begin, the couple joined the Toronto based group SPARKS (Support for Parents Adopting Romanian Children.)

From parents in the groups who had gone through the process, they learned all the paperwork that needed to be compiled and decided to handle the adop-

tion and the search for Romanian children on their own.

On March 27, the couple boarded a plane to Romania, planning to meet a friend who was visiting the country, and spend the next six weeks searching for two children they could adopt.

At this point, it seems the Gods led them on their quest, for the circumstances that followed the

couple's arrival in Romania appear fated.

The Disley's met their friend, who introduced them to a female friend of his, who happened to be a Romanian pediatrician. That same day, a patient of the doctor decided to give her baby boy up for adoption and the doctor made arrangements for the Disley's to visit the mother in the hospital.

"As soon as we saw him, we decided to adopt him," said Mrs. Disley. When the mother consented to let the Disley's have the baby, the Disley's became parents just days after arriving in the country.

Arrangements for the adoption of Gordon weren't quite as easy but again, the doctor, who had never done anything like this before and was a veritable stranger to the Disley's, paved the way.

The doctor knew a family which had placed their son, at birth, in a children's home because of their extreme poverty and poor living conditions. She got the parent's consent for the Disley's to adopt the child and smuggled Mrs. Disley in the home to see the boy after security officials forbade the couple to enter the establishment.

Mr. Disley said he wasn't sure why they weren't given access to Gordon even with parental consent but has learned that the laws surrounding adoption have gotten stricter and security at children's homes and orphanages has become more rigorous since the adoption boom started a number of months ago.

Nevertheless, the Disley's were able to procure all the paperwork required by the Romanian government to adopt the children

who have settled, seemingly without stress or asperity, into their new Canadian home.

"We went through an emotional roller-coaster," said Mrs. Disley "But this, being home with our two sons, is a good moment," finished Mr. Disley.

The couple can't believe how fortunate they were to have been aided by the Romanian doctor and believe her help enabled them to proceed with the adoption on their own instead of relying on adoption agencies or opportunistic Romanian citizens who are involved in the morally controversial issue of selling Romanian children - an issue that was documented on CBS's 60 minutes several weeks ago.

Now, the Disley's are enjoying getting accustomed to the role of parents. Although taking care of a new-born baby is more demanding, the couple is finding they have to be more solicitous with Gordon who is somewhat behind in normal childhood development.

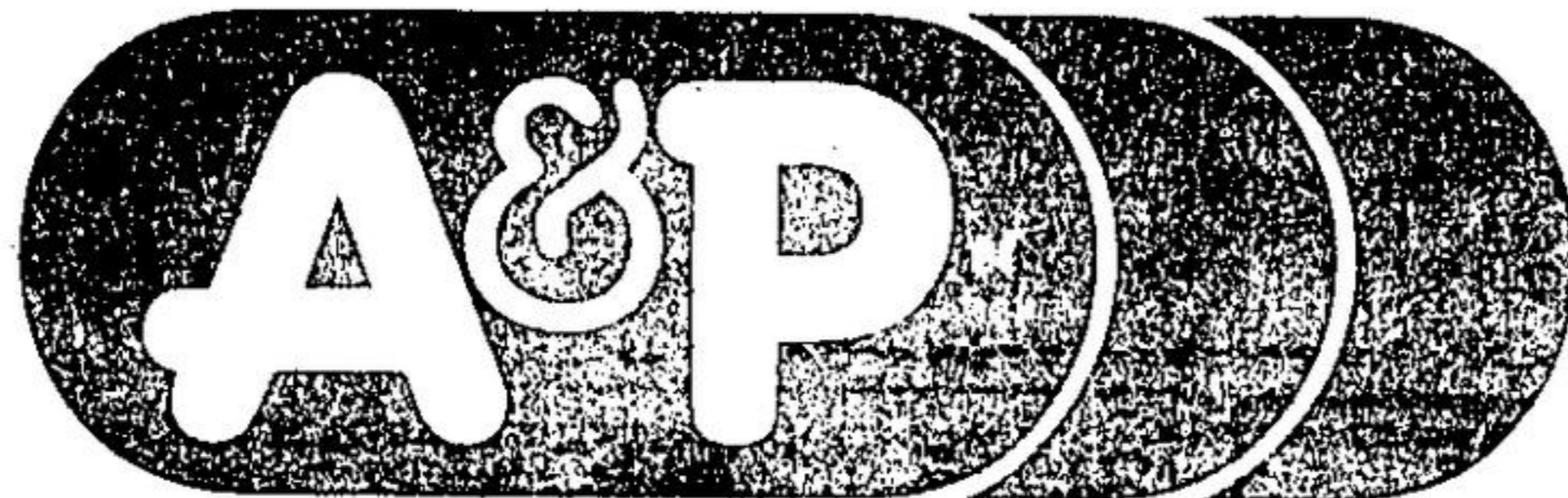
Gordon is not toilet-trained, cannot walk or utter words even in the Romanian language because he wasn't given the attention in the children's home that a child would normally receive from parents. The Disley's believe Gordon had never been outside the doors of the home before he was adopted.

With the Disley's, Gordon will have the care and attention a little boy needs while baby Doug will receive the emotional and nutritional nourishment that was denied his brother. While giving the children the care they need, Ken and Sue Disley will be parenting, a role they've yearned for and now have.



Ken and Sue Disley are not only happy to be home after spending five weeks in Romania, but are happy to be parents to two-year-old Gordon and three-month-old Doug who they adopted, officially, last week. (Herald photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

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